AROUND ROCHESTER Times Union Wed 8/17 1-84

Witness at breast trial uses 'perfect Barbie'

Times-Union
and The Associated Press

A psychologist testifying at the indecent exposure trial of seven women who bared their breasts in a city park in protest of a state law used a Barbie doll in court this morning to illustrate an ideal that females are taught to mirror in American society.

Melissa Farley, a pyschologist at the University of Iowa, said in order for most women to have figures like Barbie dolls, they would have to starve themselves or undergo major surgery, which she said many are willing to do.

"Women don't feel like they'll be loved or accepted unless they look a certain way," said Farley.

Her testimony was made to show that the state law that allows men, but not women, to appear topless in public is an attempt to control a women's body and force her to feel a certain way about it.

Farley's testimony came in what was expected to be the final day of testimony in the trial of the Cobbs Hill Topfree Seven, the women challenging the law.

In other testimony today before City Court Judge Herman J. Walz, Dr. Marilyn Story, a sex counselor and professor at the University of Iowa at Waterloo, said that children know about their bodies as early as age three.

She found in studies that males had a higher awareness of their bodies than females and that females liked the sexual parts of their bodies least.

She added that exposure to nudity has an effect on one's concept of the body and in studies she found, that those not exposed to nudity had a lower body concept than those, who had been exposed.

"Those with high body concepts," Story said, "are less likely to engage in emotional, physical and/or sexual abuses."

Charged with exposure of person after they bared their breasts at Cobbs Hill Park on June 21 were Mary Lou Schloss, Nikki Craft, Ramona Santorelli, Kathie Reilly, Deborah Seymour, Elise Tooley and Lynn Zicari.

Reilly today testified that she has gone without a top at several area beaches and other public places, without being arrested.

Besides sunbathing, Reilly said she regularly goes shirt-free "to educate and broaden people's perspectives about how things should be done."

The defense contends, among other things, that the state statute prohibiting women, but not men, from going shirtless violates their constitutional right to equal protection under the law.

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